

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 58

By Yager

A RESOLUTION urging the Department of Health and the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities to develop and promote the use of the model of integrated care.

WHEREAS, integrated care is a holistic model of health care that addresses the whole person by integrating behavioral services into primary care; and

WHEREAS, by combining the best traditions of primary care, those of adult, family practice, pediatric, mental health, and substance abuse and addiction services, the integrated health care team is able to treat the whole person, mind and body, so that all of a patient's needs are met; and

WHEREAS, primary care physicians spend much of their average work week directly treating mental health and substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, as many as 70% of primary care visits stem from psychosocial issues; and

WHEREAS, nearly two-thirds of all people with diagnosable mental disorders do not seek treatment; and

WHEREAS, receiving behavioral health care in a primary care setting removes the stigma that is associated with receiving behavioral health services in a traditional mental health facility; and

WHEREAS, patients who are able to see their primary care provider on the same day as their behavioral health provider are more likely to comply with treatment regimens; and

WHEREAS, a high degree of collaboration in an integrated team model has been shown to maximize effectiveness, reduce barriers to care, and improve efficiency in assisting patients in achieving positive health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, patients who are treated in an integrated model have lower utilization rates for the emergency room, specialty care, and hospital care than patients who are not; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of TennCare has encouraged the managed care organizations to create policies that allow for integration; and

WHEREAS, in this time of austerity, it is important to identify all potential methods for reducing the costs of the State's health care programs; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly find it appropriate to pause in their deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the efficiencies and improved health outcomes obtained through the model of integrated behavioral and primary health care; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby urge the Department of Health and the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities to work together to promote the model of integrated care and to develop and plan to increase its use by Tennessee's health care providers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the commissioners of the Department of Health and the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities with this final clause omitted from such copy.